



IOWA CHAPTER

February 27, 2008

Gene Tinker
Animal Feeding Operations Coordinator
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Gene:

Please consider this letter support from Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter for the DNR's proposal to the Iowa Access Board for funding a database for Animal Feeding Operations.

The Chapter and its nearly 6,000 Iowa members are very aware of the influx of permit applications the department receives for new and expanding confinements and open feedlots. We are also very concerned about the impact these operations can and do have on our environment. Chapter volunteers and staff are very interested in the ability to review applications, manure management plans and ensuring that large operations comply with state and federal regulations and laws. We believe this database will provide a much-needed tool for the public to access data about these operations.

Public access via the database can assist producers in their decisions to construct new or expand operations. We believe that if producers are better educated about these environmental issues, they will be more likely to solve their own water quality problems within a watershed.

All Iowans want clean water. Developing this database that will assist producers and the public in reviewing compliance of Iowa's huge animal agriculture industry will be a bonus to all Iowans.

Please let me know if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neila Seaman".

Neila Seaman, MPA
Director